

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 201665 TOSEC 090112
ORIGIN SS-05

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APPROVED BY S/S - MR. ANDERSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 201665 TOSEC 090112

EXDIS/KOOLAIID/FOR TARNOFF AND SPIEGEL FM ANDERSON/WISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: CSM ARTICLE ON SALT

REF: SECTO 9026 AND TOSEC 90083

1. WE HAVE CHECKED AROUND THIS BUILDING AND THE NSC REGARDING THE SOURCE FOR THE ARTICLE. THE CONCLUSION OF MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE IS THAT SONNENFELDT IS THE LIKELY CULPRIT. BILL HYLAND WILL TALK TO HIM TODAY AND MENTION THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY UNHAPPY WITH THE INACCURATE WAY THE SOURCE DESCRIBED THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY TO SPERLING. WE WILL ASK MARSHALL TO DO THE SAME TOMORROW WHEN HE IS BACK IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE ALSO ALERTED TRATTNER TO TREAT THIS STORY WITH A NO COMMENT IN ANY PRESS QUERIES.

2. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT SONNENFELDT CONTINUES TO WANDER AROUND TOWN AND COUNTRY (INCLUDING A RECENT CONFERENCE IN ASPEN) ASSERTING THAT HE IS SEEING MR. VANCE FAIRLY
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OFTEN. IN HIS WANDERINGS, HE CONTINUES TO BEHAVE AS IF HE IS PRIVY TO THIS ADMINISTRATION'S INNERMOST THINKING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. INDEED, HE DOES HAVE ACCESS TO A LOT OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AS A MEMBER OF THE CNO'S EXECUTIVE PANEL. WHATEVER HIS SOURCES, HE IS CLEARLY

ENJOYING THE ROLE OF AN OUTSIDER ACTING AS IF HE IS STILL

AN INSIDER.

3. SONNENFELDT ASIDE, THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF HOW WE BACKGROUND THE PRESS PRIOR TO THE VIENNA TRIP. REPORTERS HERE ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO NOSE AROUND ON THE SALT TALK PROSPECTS. MURRAY MARDER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HYLAND TO TRY TO GET A FEEL FOR THE LIE OF THE LAND. THE CHINA TRIP WILL, IN THE EYES OF MANY REPORTERS, MERGE NATURALLY INTO THE VIENNA TRIP. ALL OF THIS IS BY THE WAY OF SAYING THAT PRESS INTEREST IN MR. VANCE'S MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO WILL BE INTENSE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. IN ADDITION TO ALL THE OTHER THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO YOU MAY WISH TO ALERT HODDING TO BE THINKING ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THAT LITTLE TASK.

4. FOR TARNOFF. YOU MANAGED TO GET YOUR PICTURE SQUARELY IN THE MIDDLE OF PAGE 3 OF TODAY'S NYT, NEXT TO MRS. VANCE. YOU'RE IDENTIFIED, SHE'S NOT. WHAT ARE YOU PAYING THE PHOTOGRAPHERS OUT THERE? CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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